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low status families, and low birth-rate in high status families. Unfortunately, no adequate references are made to source material, an omission which seriously impairs the value of any statistical work.

There is a danger ever present in social discussions that the individual member of the community will be overlooked or entirely forgotten. Enthusiasm for the group may easily convert the eugenic program into a science as dismal as classical political economy, and it behooves the editor and the authors who are preparing subsequent volumes in this series to remember that society still consists of people.

SCOTT NEARING.

University of Pennsylvania.

Ferriman, Z. D. *Turkey and the Turks.* Pp. ix, 334. Price, \$3.00. New York: James Pott & Co., 1911.

No country of Europe is less understood or so much misunderstood as Turkey. The author seeks to remove some of our misapprehensions. Turkey as a government full of decay and corruption is not discussed, but a picture is given of the varied national life and a charming description of the Turkish family.

Many nationalities help to make up what Westerners call the nation, in fact there are so many racial and religious elements that Turkey must be considered as a mosaic of hundreds of nationalities often as widely separated in history and customs as the English and Russians. Still there are common possessions which are plainly Turkish in the broader sense. The greater portion of three hundred pages is taken up with a detailed description of the family life. We have inherited a tradition that the Turkish family is polygamous, that the wife is considered soulless, that the moral standards are low and the husbands are tyrants. This is all far from the fact the author assures us. Polygamy though legal is unusual and not only because of its expense, since each wife must be provided a separate establishment, but because it is unfashionable. The average family is one in which the wife enjoys quite as favorable a position as in western countries, the legal control of a wife over her property is greater than it was until recently in England and in general the family relations *de facto* are quite as peaceful as in Christian countries. Yet custom makes for a contrary appearance. Marriages are still made not by the preference of the parties but by the choice of their respective families and the male acquaintances of the wife are still confined to her immediate family. The seclusion of the Turkish home is still undisturbed—least of all by any wish of its women members.

The ceremonies of funerals and church ritual are described in detail. Domestic service and the management of the household, cooking, dress and entertainment receive due attention. Domestic slavery in its historical phases and its present decline is described. Nominally the institution no longer exists, but the abolition of the slave dealers' marts has not in fact brought the abolition of slave dealers. What slavery does exist is of a mild sort—resting often on the wish of the enslaved.

One of the most interesting chapters deals with the Turk in his relation to his faith. Mohammedanism is a man's religion—the only one of the great

faiths which finds its chief support among the male population. Gradually by interpretation and custom, "adet," the rigid rules of the Koran are being modified to suit modern conditions, and the forms still observed have a meaning for the Turk for which many parts of our own rituals have no counterpart. The faith is a faith that makes faithful. Its teachings of cleanliness, honor, and duty are powerful influences in keeping before the people standards that make for a strong national life.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Wisconsin.

Fisher, Herbert A. L. *Political Unions.* Pp. 31. Price, 35 cents. New York: Oxford University Press, 1911.

De Fronsac, Viscount. *Liberalism and Wreck of Empire.* Pp. 91. Price, 50 cents. New York: Neale Publishing Company, 1911.

These pamphlets both devote some space to political unions within the British Empire. Beyond that they have nothing in common.

The first is the Creighton lecture delivered in the University of London. Mr. Fisher in his usual brilliant style gives a descriptive survey of political unions. Beginning with an account of the circumstances attending the formation of the South African Union, he proceeds to a consideration of the causes of the success or failure of various unions, and concludes with observations on the organization and working of some of the most important. As his exposition necessarily includes many generalizations, occasionally a statement appears that is somewhat too sweeping. It may be doubted if it is yet quite true in the United States that "if the work [of framing the constitution] had to be done over again now, it is improbable that any American statesman or thinker would construct an executive so independent of the legislature, or a legislature so independent of the executive, or would assign to the several states of the Union so large a measure of autonomy as that which they still enjoy" (p. 21). But such instances are comparatively few. The general result is both stimulating and suggestive.

The second pamphlet is a diatribe against liberalism in general and the imperial policy of the English Liberal party in particular. The nature of the contents is sufficiently indicated by the writer's conclusion, that the only remedy for the evils produced by popular government in England is an armed invasion led preferably by the German Emperor, who, because of his theory of divine right, would presumably deprive parliament of its usurped executive authority. The discussion is acrimonious, and the views expressed are so warped by prejudice as to be fantastic. Otherwise it is not distinguished from the great mass of partisan literature evoked by the recent constitutional crisis in England.

W. E. LUNT.

Bowdoin College.

Forbush, W. B. *The Coming Generation.* Pp. xix, 402. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1912.

The author makes the first virile attempt to popularize the concept of posteritism. To him the coming generation is a real group of individuals who, trained in